



The Grange Courier

The John Mitchell Cairter's Ball

Friday March 19, 2004, was a night to remember at the MacDonald Inchrya Hotel, Polmont, the occasion being our annual get together known as The Cairter's Ball.



We were delighted to be able to entertain around 170 customers, suppliers, staff and friends to a hearty meal and few 'light refreshments'! Later in the evening our guests enjoyed a variety of entertainment including dancing and a 'live' casino, which was won by Mark Dixon of P&O Forwarding. Pictured (left to right) enjoying the event are Susan Jenkins, Jane Mitchell, Neil McLean and Graham Kennedy. Thanks to all who attended and made this evening so particularly enjoyable

Company News



The first quarter of 2004 has been a particularly busy time for our company with a wide variety of projects and developments running concurrently. Our ongoing fleet replacement programme continues apace, with a steady stream of new trailers and vehicles joining the fleet. 'Grange Hawk', (pictured left) is one of the smaller vehicles, which have arrived recently and is painted in the distinctive colours of our long standing customers, Thornbridge Sawmills. All our new trucks this year will be named after Birds of Prey.

We are currently applying the finishing touches to our new, state of the art 3000 square metre Warehouse, which will be fully operational in a few days' time. Ground space at our Earl's Road headquarters has also been at a premium recently, with two major schemes keeping us 'on our toes'. Our contractors have been resurfacing large areas of concrete hard-standing, which conveniently coincided with one of the largest outdoor storage jobs we have ever undertaken, involving thousands of pallets of garden compost. This created a few huge game of chess for our hard working staff, with the size of the board being several acres!

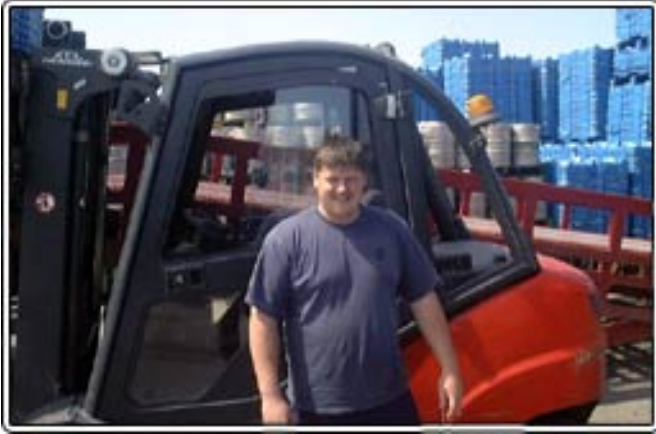
Press Cuttings

Our Company has enjoyed some prestige publicity recently with articles in two widely circulated publications. At the turn of the year we were featured in MAN trucks 'In Motion' magazine which is distributed worldwide to all the manufacturer's dealerships and customers. The whole page story complete with staff group photo, gave a resume of our recent business activity and the news behind the acquisition of our 100th. MAN commercial vehicle.



Britain's biggest monthly transport magazine, 'Trucking' carried a nine page, full colour article in it's May edition featuring a test match between a John Mitchell's Mercedes Benz and MAN truck. The in-depth written piece examines in technical detail the differences between the two wagons and takes the opinions of the operator, fleet engineer and the drivers into its final conclusions. The storyline also included a potted history of our firm and some very complementary observations on the standard of our customer service and general operations. Our driver, Iain McAlpine is pictured (right) posing for the Trucking photographer!

The Two Minute Interview



Steven Nelson, one of our ever-busy 'Forklift pilots' is in the spotlight this time round, lets see what lifts his interests!

Briefly describe your job: Forklift Driver.

What's the most enjoyable part of your work?
Working with a good team.

Where is your favourite place / holiday destination?
My favourite place is Newcastle & holiday destination is Majorca.

What are your hobbies and interests? Football and enjoying time with my son (Lewis).

What tape / CD are you listening to at the moment? Guns'N'Roses greatest hits and Eminem

What was the last film you saw at the cinema? Bad Boys 2

What's the best book you've read in the last 12 months? Roy Keane's autobiography

What's your favourite TV programme? Bad Girls

If you won £10 million on the lottery, what would you spend it on? I would give £1 million to charity, take Jacqueline, (wife) and Lewis to Disneyland, build a house and look after family and friends.

And finally, who would you most like to be stuck in a lift with? Katie Price (for obvious reasons)

A Model Example!

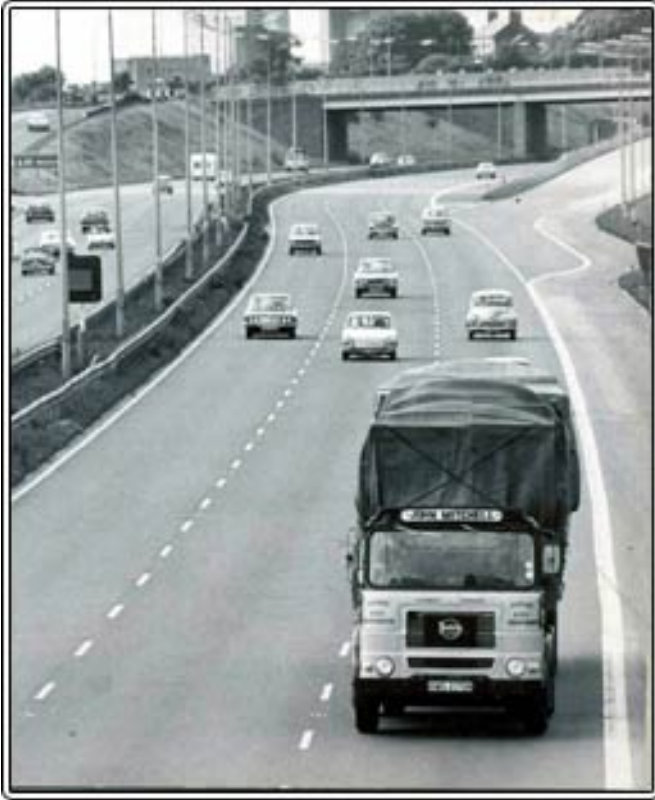
We recently took delivery of a New MAN tractor unit and Dennison curtainside trailer, which will never turn a wheel and will be kept indoors on a shelf! We do of course refer to this superb 1:24 scale detailed replica (pictured right), built by truck modeller Richard Lack. Based in Musselburgh, East Lothian, Richard is a retired Police Traffic Officer and has been building model trucks for the last six years. What started as 'something to do in the winter' has almost turned into a full time hobby for Richard, who is now very highly regarded within the Road Transport Industry.



We were naturally delighted when he accepted the challenge of our commission, to construct a model of one of the John Mitchell flagship vehicles and we think you will agree that the finished article is stunning. For the record, Richard takes a painstaking three months to build and paint such a masterpiece, with all minor details replicated perfectly in the correct scale. The tractor unit is built from a boxed kit and heavily modified, with extra axle and right hand drive conversion etc. The trailer is entirely scratch built

from reference photographs and measurements taken from the real thing!

Rear View Mirror



It's fast rewind for 28 years for this edition's peep into the past, back in 1976 the road networks were improving fast and traffic congestion was small scale compared to today's regular snarl ups and gridlock! Our photo (left) shows driver (George Gray) in his new Seddon (Grange Marquis) southbound on the M6 at Haydock, en route to Bristol, enjoying a clear run, but being pursued by a fine selection of contemporary British Built family saloon cars!

At home in Grangemouth our new depot at Earls Road continued to develop at a great pace helped no doubt, by one of the hottest summers on record. It was so warm in fact, that the latest fashion must haves; flared trousers, were being rolled up across the country to cope with the soaring temperatures. Other highlights of that year included disco dancing to Abba and the Osmond's in platform shoes, an average weekly wage of £72, the late James Hunt clinching the Formula One world championship and Ronnie Barker keeping us all laughing

while serving his 'Porridge'.

The Competition

This time round we're offering our readers the chance to win a Mercedes Benz drivers holdall filled with some quality, three pointed star 'goodies'! If you have read your Grange Courier carefully, you should know the answer!

The Question: What are our trucks named after this year?

Please e-mail your answer to newsdesk@johnmitchell.co.uk before 30th. September 2004. The winner will be drawn at random from the correct entries and the result will be announced in the next newsletter.

Congratulations to Alex Fraser of Grangemouth, whose winning entry was pulled from the mail sack for the framed painting competition in newsletter no. 5. The correct answer was that our containers went to Speyside. By sheer coincidence, Alex is an ex-driver from quite a few years ago and used to drive the sister vehicle of the one featured in the painting!



John Mitchell Merchandise

We are pleased to offer the following official company products for sale; all prices include postage and packing. If you require any further information on these goods, please contact Lyn Sharpe at our office (tel. 01324 496307).

Painting



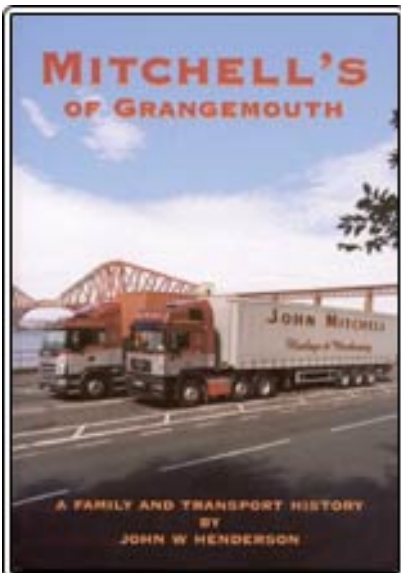
We have a small number of prints of Alan Spillett's classic painting available for sale. These Giclee fine art prints are produced to a very high standard and the image size is 10" x 14" with surrounding border. The cost per print is £40. Please allow six weeks for delivery and note that cheques sent will not be cashed until 1 week prior to despatch.

Model

To commemorate our success back in 2002 as 'Motor Transport UK Haulier of the Year', we commissioned top model makers Search Impex Ltd. To produce a detailed 1:43 rd. scale model of one of our MAN trucks. This model is a limited edition and the cost is £95.



Book



A book on our family firm was first published in November 2000. "Mitchells of Grangemouth", a family and transport history, is a 48-page well illustrated history of the Mitchell family's carting, haulage and local involvement in the area's heritage from 1892 right up to present day. The cost of this publication is £12.

Send your orders to: John Mitchell Haulage and Warehousing, Earls Road Industrial Estate, Grangemouth. FK3 8XA. Please allow 28 days delivery for the Book and Model.

Thank you for reading the Grange Courier, if you have a story or picture that you think would be suitable for our magazine, please mail us at newsdesk@johnmitchell.co.uk
